

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /078 W

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R 231101Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 898

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 138

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE HOLDS DESPITE SECTARIAN BOMBINGS AND
PROVISIONAL ATTACK ON SOLDIER

REF: BELFAST 136

1. TO DATE PROVISIONAL IRA CEASEFIRE GENERALLY HOLDING
DESPITE RESUMPTION BOMBINGS CATHOLIC OWNED PREMISES FOR
WHAT APPEARS BE SECTARIAN MOTIVES AND SHOOTING BRITISH
SOLDIER BELFAST APRIL 19 BY PROVISIONAL IRA. LARGE BOOBY
TRAP BOMB EXPLODED IN CATHOLIC-OWNED HOUSE COUNTY TYRONE APRIL
21 KILLING TWO BROTHERS AND ONE SISTER OF FAMILY. LATTER
SEVEN MONTHS PREGNANT AND CHILD ALSO DIED. SUSPICION THAT
BOMB RIGGED BY PROVISIONAL IRA TO CATCH SECURITY PATROL
DENIED BY PROVISIONALS. CONVENTION CANDIDATE FROM SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY AUSTIN CURRIE HAS ATTACKED
SECURITY FORCES FOR FAILURE APPREHEND PROTESTANT KILLER
GANG OPERATING IN AREA. ACCORDING CURRIE NINETEEN CATHOLICS
KILLED IN PAST THREE YEARS BY GANG. TWO BOMBS EXPLODED IN
CATHOLIC-OWNED PUB GLENGORMLEY SUBURB BELFAST APRIL 22.
SIX PEOPLE HOSPITALIZED. TELEPHONE CALL TO LOCAL NEWSPAPER
CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY BEHALF "YOUNG MILITANTS", A PROTESTANT
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FREE-LANCE GANG.

2. PROVISIONAL IRA HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHOOTING
BRITISH SOLDIER, APPARENTLY A CORPORAL, IN BELFAST APRIL 19
(REFTEL). PROVISIONAL STATEMENT SUGGESTED SOLDIER ON
SPYING MISSION AND PROBABLY MEMBER SPECIAL AIR SERVICES
MURDER SQUAD. STORMONT NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE HAS DENIED
SOLDIER A SPYT BUT CONFIRMED SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES TO
OBSERVE STATUS OF CEASEFIRE WOULD CONTINUE.

3. CONGEN VIEWS ISOLATED CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN PROVISIONALS
AND SECURITY FORCES AS LESS THREATENEING THAN SECTARIAN
BOMBINGS. PROTESTANT ATTACKS ON CATHOLIC CITIZENS SERIOUSLY
CHALLENGING TO ONE ROLE PROVISIONALS CONSIDER IMPORTANT
THAT OF PROTECTOR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.
SPICER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, ARMISTICE, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELFAS00138
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750142-0731
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750422/aaaaauea.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BELFAST 136
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEASEFIRE HOLDS DESPITE SECTARIAN BOMBINGS AND PROVISIONAL ATTACK ON SOLDIER
TAGS: PINT, UK, IRA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006